

440 (in other words, whether the strongest uplink beam 130 was greater than minimum threshold 432) during the past time slot. If fast decision beam selection module 408 did select a fast decision beam selection 440 during the past time slot, gain control module 488 may determine from relevant signaling information 754 whether a burst from a mobile station 15 was received in that time slot, or whether the selected uplink beam 130 was receiving noise from some other source. In one embodiment, if relevant signaling information 754 indicates that there was a mobile station 15 communicating in that the slot, gain control module 488 sets gain settings 490 equal to the baseline values for each beam receiver 112. On the other hand, if relevant signaling information 754 indicates that there was not a mobile station 15 communicating in that time slot, then the selected uplink beam 130 was selected erroneously, and gain control module 488 may set gain settings 490 equal to the baseline values for each beam receiver 112 except, but decrease the gain setting 490 for the beam receiver 112 that received the selected uplink beam 130.

[0192] If fast decision beam selection module 408 does not select a fast decision beam selection 440 for a particular period of time, such as over a span of a particular number of time slots, gain control module 488 may increase the gain setting 490 of each beam receiver 112 by a particular amount above the baseline values to increase the sensitivity of beam receivers 112.

[0193] FIG. 15 illustrates a method for determining gain settings 490 in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention. In particular, FIG. 15 may illustrate gain control algorithm 752 operable to be executed by gain control module 488. At step 800, the method starts. In one embodiment, the method may start after a particular time slot. At step 802, it is determined whether an uplink beam 130 was selected as fast decision beam selection 440 during the particular time slot. In other words, it is determined whether any uplink beam 130 was determined to be greater than minimum threshold 432 during the particular time slot. If it is determined at step 802 that an uplink beam 130 was selected during the particular time slot, the method proceeds to step 810. However, if it is determined at step 802 that an uplink beam 130 was not selected during the particular time slot, the method proceeds to step 804. At step 804, it is determined whether a particular time period or a particular number of time slots have passed since any uplink beam 130 was last selected. If it is determined at step 804 that the particular time period or number of time slots have not passed since any uplink beam 130 was last selected, gain control module 488 may set the gain settings 490 equal to the baseline level for each beam receiver 112 at step 806. On the other hand, if it is determined at step 804 that the particular time period or number of time slots have passed since any uplink beam 130 was last selected, gain control module 488 may increase the baseline level for each beam receiver 112 at step 808 and set these increased gains as gain settings 490.

[0194] At step 810, it is determined whether the selected uplink beam 130 received a burst from a mobile station 15 or noise from some other source. In particular, gain control module 488 may analyze relevant signaling information 754 that includes information about the signals received during the particular time slot to determine whether a burst from a mobile station 15 was identified in that time slot. If it is

determined at step 810 that the selected uplink beam 130 received a burst from a mobile station 15, gain control module 488 may set the gain settings 490 equal to the baseline level for each beam receiver 112 at step 812. On the other hand, if it is determined at step 810 that the selected uplink beam 130 did not receive a burst from a mobile station 15 (rather, that selected uplink beam 130 received a burst of noise from some other source), gain control module 488 may set the gain settings 490 equal to the baseline level for each beam receiver 112, except reducing the gain of the beam receiver 112 that received the selected uplink beam 130, at step 814.

[0195] At step 816, the gain settings 490 determined at step 806, 808, 812 or 814 are communicated from host processor 118 to receiving unit 108. These gain settings 490 are then used to set the gain of each beam receiver 112 before or at the beginning of the next time slot. This process may be repeated to determine or update the gain settings 490 of each beam receiver 112 for determining fast decision beam selections 440.

[0196] FIGS. 16 through 18 illustrate a smart decision beam selection system and method in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention. As shown in the embodiment of FIG. 16, a smart decision beam selection module 410 comprises one or more smart decision algorithms 500, a buffer 502, and a beam selection verification module 514. In one embodiment, smart decision algorithms 500 include a quality factor algorithm 504 operable to determine a quality factor for one or more beams based on one or more inputs or parameters, including information from correlation module 400, signal strength module 402, storage module 406 and/or any other suitable source of information. Buffer 502 is generally operable to receive and store quality factor selections made by quality factor algorithm 504, and to determine a provisional beam selection 512 based on the received and stored quality factor selections. Beam selection verification module 514 is generally operable to determine whether to verify provisional beam selection 512 based on relevant signaling information 180 received from signaling information monitoring system 106. If provisional beam selection 512 is verified by beam selection verification module 514, the provisional beam selection 512 is selected as the smart decision beam selection 506.

[0197] As discussed above with reference to FIG. 11, correlation module 400 may be operable to correlate signal sequences received via one or more uplink beams 130 with one or more known training sequences in order to determine a correlation quality 508 for each of the beams. As discussed above with reference to FIG. 12, signal strength module 402 may be operable to determine a signal strength 438 associated with each uplink beam 130. In one embodiment, signal strength module 402 is operable to determine the RSSI for each uplink beam 130.

[0198] Correlation qualities 508 and signal strengths 438 of each uplink beam 130 may be communicated to smart decision beam selection module 410, as well as to storage module 406. Storage module 406 includes a parameter database 510 operable to store data regarding one or more inputs or parameters, such as correlation qualities 508 and signal strengths 438, for example. Storage module 406 may be operable to supply smart decision beam selection module